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SOURCE Salzburger Nachrichten.RUMANIA PLANS RESETTLEMENT OF 200,000 ETHNIC GERMANS

A Rumanian delegation recently visited East Berlin for about 2 weeks to negotiate with the East German government for the resettlement of the Transylvanian ethnic Germans from Rumania to East Germany. Rumanian peasants from the Dobruja are to replace the estimated 200,000 Transylvanian Germans still in Rumania, according to the resettlement plan. The land thus evacuated in the Dobruja will be colonized by Soviets. Hence, a Soviet-occupied zone will be formed from the mouth of the Danube to the Bulgarian border on the Black Sea. This will include the port of Constanta and the Danube-Black Sea Canal area.

The area around Medias, in Transylvania, is to be evacuated and converted into a heavy industrial region. The area already has some heavy industry, as well as natural gas which can be used for cheap heating and power to operate large enterprises. In the city of Medias, natural gas has been used for domestic purposes for 30 years.

The planned resettlement of the Transylvanian Germans to East Germany involves another factor. For several months the refugee movement of East Germans to West Germany has included a large number of peasants. Thousands of East German farms are vacant and will not be worked; the cattle are dying, and the fields cannot be cultivated. The food shortage in East Germany threatens to become severe. From time to time, small groups of People's Police are sent to the abandoned farms to milk and feed the cows. The initiators of the resettlement plan thought that this situation could be overcome with the aid of the efficient Transylvanian farmers.

The German population was called to Rumania by the King of Hungary 800 years ago to cultivate the land and defend it against the Turks. The settlers possessed a high level of culture and were able to introduce western European civilization to this area. At the end of World War II, approximately 25,000 Transylvanian Germans were moved westward by the retreating German troops.

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Approximately 15,000 of this number now live in Austria and 10,000 in West Germany. Of the 200,000 [sic] remaining in Rumania after the war, thousands were moved by the Soviets to the Donets coal fields, where they died. All the property of the Transylvanian Germans was confiscated by the Communist government, and many of the people were imprisoned. Now this group, which has suffered so greatly in the past, is to be uprooted completely.

The ethnic German group in the Rumanian Banat, which once comprised 300,000 persons, is constantly dwindling. On the one hand, this group is being "de-Germanized" by nationalization, control of schools, and other measures. On the other hand, it is constantly being reduced by deportations to Dobruja, where the deportees are assigned to hard labor on the Danube-Black Sea Canal project. Thousands of deportees spent two terrible winters on the icy steppes of Baragan without roofs over their heads or help of any kind, or perished in hard work on the canal.

This treatment of the Banat Germans and the proposed resettlement of the Transylvanian Germans appear to constitute a considered plan to do away with ethnic Germans in Rumania, and to obliterate the Central European civilization which may be traced to their influence.

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